

Table of Practical Requirements

Location

Do you want your home to be near:

- employment?
- public transport?
- schools or nurseries?
- friends or relatives?
- hospitals or doctors?
- shops?
- night life?
- parks and playgrounds
- youth clubs?
- sports facilities
- libraries?
- countryside or sea for recreation?

Space

How many rooms?

☞ How many bedrooms do you need?

☞ Do you want a:

- separate kitchen and dining room?
- combined kitchen and dining room?

☞ Do you want more than one living room?

☞ Do you want more than one bathroom?

☞ Do you want a:

- nursery?
- garage?
- workshop?
- study/library?
- laundry?
- guest room?
- store room?
- breakfast nook?
- porch?
- garden shed?
- conservatory (sunroom)?
- greenhouse?
- dressing room?
- games room?
- swimming pool?
- sauna?
- Jacuzzi?
- solarium?

What size rooms?

☞ Which rooms do you want to be spacious?

☞ Do you want high ceilings?

☞ How much and what size furniture do you want in each room?

☞ How much storage space do you need in each room?

What position?

☞ Which rooms do you want to be close to each other (eg. kitchen and dining room)?

☞ Which rooms do you want to be kept apart?

☞ What time of day would you prefer sunlight in each room?

☞ Which rooms do you want to have access to the garden?

☞ If you have a view, from which rooms would you like to see it?

☞ Are there rooms which need to be on the ground floor (eg. for elderly or disabled people)?

Service & Fittings

Heating

☞ What type of fuel do you want:

- gas?
- electricity?
- oil?
- solid fuel?
- solar?

☞ Do you want:

- open fires?
- air conditioning?

- radiators?
- storage heaters?
- gas or electric fires?

- warm-air ducts?
- a solid-fuel kitchen range with boiler?

☞ What level of insulation do you want:

- cavity wall?
- loft lining?
- draught stopping?
- double glazing?

☞ Do you want your heating control to be:

- room by room?
- centralized?
- both?

☞ How many electric socket outlets do you need in each room?

☞ How many wall or ceiling light leads do you want in each room?

☞ Do you need high-voltage circuits for cooking, immersion heaters etc.

☞ Do you want a separate meter for off-peak electricity?

☞ Do you want an exterior electricity meter?

☞ Do you need a separate meter for rented accommodation?

Gas and oil

☞ How many gas points do you want in each room and in what position?

☞ Do you want an exterior gas meter?

☞ Do you need a tank for oil or liquid gas storage:

- above ground?
- below ground?

Plumbing

☞ How many water outlets, hot and cold, do you need and in which rooms?

☞ Do you want:

- water points form a washing machine or dishwasher?
- an external tap?
- a water softening unit?
- a waste disposal unit on sinks?
- a direct mains water supply?

Built-in cabinets

☞ Do you want built-in units in the kitchen?

☞ Do you want storage units in bedrooms or elsewhere?

Light & Noise

☞ Do you want areas with lots of natural light?

☞ Do you want areas that are quiet?

☞ Do you want to insulate rooms against noise?

Access

☞ How many access points do you need?

☞ Do you want separate access points to different areas?

☞ Do you want direct access to the garden or patio and from which rooms?

☞ Do you want covered access to the garage?

☞ Do you need access to attic, roof or cellar?

☞ Do you need access to fire escapes?

☞ Should any access areas not have steps?

☞ Do you need doors and halls that are wide enough for a wheelchair?

☞ Do you need an elevator?

☞ Do you need access for bulky furniture?

☞ Do you need access for fuel delivery or rubbish collection?

Security

☞ Do you want:

- to be close to a police station?
- an alarm system? If so, what type?
- dead locks on all exterior doors?
- locks on internal doors?
- locks or bars on windows?
- unbreakable glass in doors and windows?
- to be overlooked by neighbours?
- a lockable garage?
- a wall safe?
- secure boundaries around your property?

Safety

☞ Do you need:

- child-proof windows and doors?
- child-proof electric socket outlets?
- heating outlets that are safe for children?
- storage areas out of reach of children?
- unbreakable glass in doors?
- garden gates and fences to protect children?
- lighting on stairs and steps?
- handrails for elderly or disabled persons?
- an alarm system for summoning help?

Miscellaneous

☞ Do you need space or access for pets?

☞ How many telephones do you need? Where?

☞ Do you need:

- an external TV aerial?
- A satellite receiver?
- provision for cable TV?
- a telex machine?
- Facilities for a home computer?

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